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ABSTRACT

The history of technology can be approached not only as a chronology of machine development and a study of artifacts, but also as a study of economic and social development. Although the emphasis in this document is on general histories of technology in the English language, many of the sources listed could be useful in compiling the histories of individual branches of technology. This guide to the literature on the history of technology in the collections of the Library of Congress is not necessarily intended to be a comprehensive bibliography. It is designed to provide the reader with a set of resources that can be used to focus on the topic. The document lists the subject headings used by the Library of Congress in cataloging information on the history of technology. It also contains citations of materials categorized as: (1) brief introductions; (2) basic texts; (3) additional titles; (4) handbooks and encyclopedias; (5) other bibliographies; (6) conference proceedings; (7) government publications; (8) abstracting and indexing services; (9) journal articles; (10) technical reports; and (11) additional sources of information. (TW)

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THE HISTORY OF TECHNOLOGY

Compiled by Diana Niskern

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SCOPE: The history of technology can be approached not only as a chronology of machine development and a study of artifacts, but also as a study of economic and social development. Although the emphasis in this guide is on general histories of technology in the English language, many of the sources listed will be useful in compiling the histories of individual branches of technology. Not intended to be a comprehensive bibliography, this compilation is designed--as the name of the series implies--to put the reader "on target." Related Tracer Bullet titles include Science and Technology in 18th Century America, Inventions and Inventors, and History of American Agriculture.

INTRODUCTIONS TO THE TOPIC

Buchanan, Robert A. The history of technology. In The New Encyclopaedia Britannica. 15th ed. v. 28. Chicago, Encyclopaedia Britannica, c1986. p. 451-483. AE5.E363 1986

Hall, A. Rupert. Technology. In The Encyclopedia Americana. International ed. v. 26. Danbury, Conn., Grolier, c1986. p. 357-378. AE5.E333 1986

Pursell, Carroll W., Jr. History of technology. In A Guide to the culture of science, technology, and medicine. General editor, Paul T. Durbin. New York, Free Press, 1984. p. 70-120, 670-671. Q158.5.G84 1984

Originally published in 1980; reissued with a bibliographic update in 1984.

SUBJECT HEADINGS used by the Library of Congress, under which books on the history of technology can be located in most card, book, and online catalogs, include the following:

TECHNOLOGY--HISTORY (Highly relevant)
Note: for geographical breakdowns of this topic, it is necessary to search both TECHNOLOGY--geographic area--HISTORY and TECHNOLOGY--HISTORY--geographic area.

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ENGINEERING--HISTORY (Relevant)
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INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY (Relevant)
INDUSTRIAL ARTS--HISTORY (Relevant)
INDUSTRY--HISTORY (Relevant)

BASIC TEXTS

Daumas, Maurice, ed. A history of technology & invention: progress through the ages. Translated by Eileen B. Hennessy. New York, Crown Publishers, 1970, c1969- T15.D2613*
Translation of Histoire generale des techniques.
Includes bibliographies.
v. 1. The origins of technological civilization.--v. 2. The first stages of mechanization.--v. 3. The expansion of mechanization, 1725-1860.--

Derry, Thomas Kingston, and Trevor I. Williams. A short history of technology from the earliest times to A.D. 1900. New York, Oxford University Press, 1961, c1960. 782 p. T15.D4 1961*
Bibliography: p. 750-758.

The History of techniques. New York, Gordon and Breach Science Publishers, c1986. 2 v. (1410 p.) T15.H5713 1986*
Translation of Histoire des techniques.
Bibliography: p. 1187-1242.
v. 1. Techniques and civilizations, written and edited by Bertrand Gille--v. 2. Techniques and sciences, edited by Bertrand Gille; written by André Fel and others.

Singer, Charles Joseph, and others, eds. A history of technology. Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1954-84. 8 v. T15.S53*
Volumes 6-7 edited by Trevor I. Williams.
Includes bibliographies.
v. 1. From early times to fall of ancient empires.--v. 2. The Mediterranean civilizations and the Middle Ages, c. 700 B.C. to c. 1500 A.D.--v. 3. From the Renaissance to the industrial revolution, c. 1500-c. 1750.--v. 4. The industrial revolution, c. 1750 to c. 1850.--v. 5. The late nineteenth century, c. 1850 to c. 1900.--v. 6-7. The twentieth century, c. 1900 to c. 1950.--v. 8. Consolidated indexes, compiled by Richard Raper.

Technology in Western civilization. Edited by Melvin Kranzberg and Carroll W. Pursell, Jr. New York, Oxford University Press, 1967. 2 v. T15.T43*
Includes bibliographies.
v. 1. The emergence of modern industrial society, earliest times to 1900.--v. 2. Technology in the twentieth century.

*Available in reference collection, Science Reading Room

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3d ed. first published in 1868.
Bibliographical footnotes.

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Label mounted on t.p. of v. 1 has imprint: W.S. Heinman, New York. Vol. 1, 3, 5, 7: 2d ed.; v. 2, 4, 6, 9: 2d rev. ed.
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Bibliography: p. 307-309.

White, K. D. Greek and Roman technology. Ithaca, N.Y., Cornell University Press, 1984. 272 p. T16.W45 1984
Bibliography: p. 241-255.

White, Lynn Townsend, Jr. Medieval religion and technology: collected essays. Berkeley, University of California Press, c1978. 360 p. (Publications of the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, UCLA, 13) T17.W47*
Includes bibliographical references.

Williams, Trevor Illtyd. A short history of twentieth-century technology c. 1900-c. 1950. Oxford (Oxfordshire), Clarendon Press; New York, Oxford University Press, 1982. 411 p. T20.W55 1982
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Vol. 2 has imprint: Published for the Hagley Museum and Library.
Includes bibliographical references.
v. 1. Waterpower in the century of the steam engine.--v. 2. Steam power.

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Includes bibliographies.

Ryder, John Douglas, and Donald G. Fink. Engineers & electrons: a century of electrical progress. New York, IEEE Press, c1984. 251 p.
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Schlebecker, John T. Whereby we thrive: a history of American farming, 1607-1972. Ames, Iowa State University Press, 1975. 342 p.
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Partial contents: v. 4-5. Patents.--v. 6-7. Steam engines.--v. 8-10. Telegraphs, military technology.--v. 11-13. Special studies.

Weitzman, David L. Traces of the past: a field guide to industrial archaeology. New York, Scribner, 1980. 229 p. T37.W44
Bibliography: p. 211-215.

Westbrook, J. H. Materials: history before 1800. Materials: history since 1800. In Encyclopedia of materials science and engineering. Editor-in-chief, Michael B. Bever. v. 4. Oxford (Oxfordshire), Pergamon; Cambridge, Mass., MIT Press, 1986. p. 2816-2838. TA402.E53 1986*
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Cutcliffe, Stephen H., Judith A. Mistichelli, and Christine M. Roysdon. Technology and values in American civilization: a guide to information sources. Detroit, Mich., Gale Research Co., c1980. 704 p. (Gale information guide library. American studies information guide series, v. 9) Z5579.C87*

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v. 1. pt. 1. Personalities, A-J.--v. 2. pt. 1. Personalities, K-Z. pt. 2. Institutions.--v. 3. Subjects.--v. 4. Civilizations and periods, prehistory to Middle Ages.--v. 5. Civilizations and periods, 15th to 19th centuries.--v. 6. Author index.

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"Result of a symposium entitled Bridge to the future, held on May 18-20, 1983, and sponsored by Brooklyn Rediscovery, a program of the Brooklyn Educational and Cultural Alliance, and the New York Academy of Sciences."

Includes bibliographies.

Symposium ICOHTEC, 10th, Smolenice, Czechoslovakia, 1982. Sources for the history of technology: national comparisons (conference papers). Tenth Symposium ICOHTEC, Smolenice, 1982, Czechoslovakia. Editor, Luboš Nový. Praha, Institute of Czechoslovak and General History CSAS, 1983. 541 p. (Acta historiae rerum naturalium nec non technicarum. Special issue, 17. Czechoslovak studies in the history of science. Special issue, 17) T14.7.S96 1982

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Symposium on the History and Philosophy of Technology, Chicago, 1973. The history and philosophy of technology. Edited by George Bugliarello and Dean B. Doner. Urbana, University of Illinois Press, c1979. 384 p. T15.S96 1973

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GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

Historic America: buildings, structures, and sites. Recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey and the Historic American Engineering Record; checklist compiled by Alicia Stamm; essays edited by C. Ford Peatross. Washington, Library of Congress, 1983. 708 p. NA705.H53 1983
Includes bibliographical references.

Mayr, Otto. Feedback mechanisms in the historical collections of the National Museum of History and Technology. Washington, Smithsonian Institution Press, 1971. 133 p. (Smithsonian studies in history and technology, no. 12) TJ216.M35
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Merzbach, Uta C. Georg Scheutz and the first printing calculator. Washington, Smithsonian Institution Press, 1977. 74 p. (Smithsonian studies in history and technology, no. 36) QA75.M46
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Worthington, William E., Jr. Beyond the city lights: American domestic gas lighting systems. Washington, Smithsonian Institution, 1985. 23 p. TH7910.W67 1985
"An exhibit at the National Museum of American History, October 17, 1985-April 20, 1986."

ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING SERVICES that index relevant journal articles and other literature are listed below. Some suggested terms are given as aids in searching.

America, History and Life (1964-) Z1236.A48
See: Technology

Applied Science & Technology Index (1913-) Z7913.I7*
See: Technology--History
Engineering--History
History
Subdivision History under subject headings of interest

Engineering Index (1884-) Z5851.E62*
See especially volumes through 1957 for entries under Engineering History

General Science Index (1978-) Z7401.G46*
See: Technology--History
History
Subdivision History under subject headings of interest

Physics Abstracts (1898-) Q1.S3* and QC1.P46*
See: History

Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature (1900-) AI3.R45
See: Technology--History
Industrial Archeology
Industrial Revolution

Depending on the topic, researchers may need to use more specialized abstracting and indexing services such as those listed below.

Electrical & Electronics Abstracts (1898-) Z5833.E37*
See: History

International Aerospace Abstracts (1961-) TL500.I57*
See: Histories

Metals Abstracts Index (1968-) TN1.M51532*
See: Historical Metallurgy

JOURNALS that often contain articles on the history of technology are

American Heritage of Invention & Technology (uncataloged)
The Chronicle of the Early American Industries Association, Inc. T1.E2
History and Technology (uncataloged)
History of Technology T14.7.H57
Published annually
IA, the Journal of the Society for Industrial Archeology T37.I13
Industrial Archaeology T37.I5
Industrial Archaeology Review T37.I53
Isis; an International Review Devoted to the History of Science and Its Cultural Influences Q1.I7

Note: Consult reference librarian for location of abstracting and indexing services in the Science Reading Room

Newcomen Society for the Study of the History of Engineering and Technology, London. Transactions T1.N47
Scientific American T1.S5
Society for Industrial Archeology Newsletter T37.S62
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Chiles, James R. The road to radar. American heritage of invention & technology, v. 2, spring 1987: 24-30.

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TECHNICAL REPORTS and other types of literature are indexed in the following guides:

Government Reports Announcements & Index (1946-) Z7916.G78*
See: Histories
History

Scientific and Technical Aerospace Reports (1963-) TL500.S35*
See: Histories

SELECTED TECHNICAL REPORTS sold by the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161, include the following:

Barnes, Arthur G. History of Patowmack Canal: Matildaville. A discussion of the Patowmack Company, its canal, and Matildaville, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Great Falls, Virginia. Prepared for National Park Service, Denver, CO. Williamsburg, Va., Southside Historical Sites, Inc., Mar. 31, 1978. 160 p. PB81-199747**

Cooper, Patricia A. From hand craft to mass production: men, women and work culture in American cigar factories, 1900-1919. College Park, Md., University of Maryland, 1981. 402 p. PB82-265547**
"Dissertation submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the University of Maryland in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy 1981."

Dowson, Duncan, and Bernard J. Hamrock. History of ball bearings. Feb. 1981. 84 p. (NASA-TM-81689) N81-18391**

Govan, Gregory G. The tank builders: a history of early Soviet armor research and development. APO NY 09053, U.S. Army Russian Institute, June 1979. 52 p. AD-A098574**

Lefferts, H. Leedom, Jr., and David R. Peifer. Northwest New Jersey: an inventory and history of historic engineering and industry. Washington, U.S. Dept. of Interior, National Park Service, 1979. 337 p. PB84-209493**

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ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

National Museum of American History Branch Library
Smithsonian Institution Libraries
Constitution Ave. between 12th and 14th Sts., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20560
Telephone: (202) 357-2036

Newcomen Society of the United States
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Exton, Pennsylvania 19341
Telephone: (215) 363-6600